

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7395

S E C R E T CARACAS 4133

NODIS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: OVIP, VE (MRS CARTER)

SUBJ: POSSIBLE VISIT OF MRS CARTER

REF: STATE 91973

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT PEREZ AND FOREIGN MINISTER WHO ARE ON THEIR MIDDLE EASTERN TRIP, I RAISED POSSIBLE VISIT WITH ACTING PRESIDENT, MINISTER OF INTERIOR LEPAGE. LEPAGE SAID HE WOULD COMMUNICATE IMMEDIATELY AND CONFIDENTIALLY WITH PRESIDENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND LET ME KNOW IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO. HE SAID THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE MRS. CARTER. (VENEZUELAN'S WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SEE THIS VISIT AS A GRACIOUS PRELUDE TO THE PEREZ STATE VISIT, AND WILL SURELY WISH TO BE WARM AND RECEPTIVE FOR THEIR PART.)

2. I AM SURE THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ WILL HAVE SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTIVITIES DURING THE VISIT. WHILE WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BEGIN TO PIN DOWN THE SCHEDULE UNTIL HE AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER RETURN MAY 5, THE FOLLOWING ARE OUR SUGGESTIONS WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOV AND HIGHLY FRUITFUL:

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A. THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 8:

- 1) WORKING BREAKFAST WITH FOREIGN MINISTER;
- 2) MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ;
- 3) LAYING OF WREATH AT SIMON BOLIVAR'S
TOBM--A PROTOCOLARY "MUST" FOR VISITING DIGNITARIES;
- 4) CALL ON PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS;
- 5) SPECIAL GUEST AT LUNCHEON HOSTED BY NORTH AMERICAN

ASSOCIATION, VENEZUELAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND/OR VENEZUELAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN. THE LARGE AND INFLUENTIAL AMERICAN COLONY WILL BE EXTREMELY ANXIOUS TO SEE MRS. CARTER. A USEFUL DEVICE, AND ONE TRADITIONALLY USED, WOULD BE TO INVITE HER AS SPECIAL GUEST AT A LUNCHEON AND ASK HER TO MAKE A FEW REMARKS TO THE ASSEMBLAGE. IF MRS. CARTER WOULD SPEAK TO THE GROUP, IT WOULD BE A MOST GRACIOUS AND PRODUCTIVE GESTURE.

B. AFTERNOON:

1) BRIEFING SESSION WITH DR. RUTH LERNER DE ALMEA, DIRECTOR GENERAL MARISCAL AYACUCHO (GMA) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. THIS REMARKABLE PROGRAM IS MASSIVE GOV EFFORT TO EDUCATE PROFESSIONALS AND THOUSANDS ARE GIVEN SCHOLARSHIP EACH YEAR. CURRENTLY THERE ARE ABOUT 7,000 GMA STUDENTS STUDYING OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTRY, HALF OF THEM IN THE US AND 4,000 IN VENEZUELA. THIS MAJOR PROGRAM IS OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO VENEZUELAN AND OFFERS A MAJOR OPPORTUNITY FOR US-VENEZUELAN TIES. POSSIBLE USG COOPERATION WITH THE PROGRAM, IN FACT, MAY BE A USEFUL TOPIC FOR THE PEREZ STATE VISIT. MRS. CARTER'S INTEREST IN THE PROGRAM WOULD BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED AND WOULD BE HELPFUL FROM THE US POINT OF VIEW.

2) SESSION WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESSIONAL FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEES. THIS COULD BE DROPPED IF SCHEDULE OTHERWISE CROWDED).

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3) MRS. PEREZ HAS AS A MAJOR ACTIVITY OF HERS, SPONSORSHIP OF DAY CARE CENTERS FOR POOR CHILDREN, AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY WISH TO SHOW MRS. CARTER SOME OF THESE ACTIVITIES.

4) PRESS CONFERENCE OR TV APPEARANCE. PRESS INTEREST WILL BE EXTREMELY HIGH; A PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE VERY EAGERLY PRESSED.

C. EVENING: PRESIDENT PEREZ WILL SURELY HOST A DINNER, EITHER JUNE 8 OR ON THE FIRST NIGHT, JUNE 7, IF ARRIVAL TIME MAKES THAT PRACTICAL. WE WOULD HOST A RECEPTION FOR GOV AND CIVIC DIGNITARIES ON THE OTHER NIGHT.

D. JUNE 9: IF DEPARTURE TIME PERMITS WE COULD SCHEDULE WORKING BREAKFAST WITH APPROPRIATE PERSON OR GROUP.

3. I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING INFORMATION ON LODGING REQUIREMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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